

PCT Appl. No. : PCT/GB2004/000213

Filed : January 19, 2004

Please add the following Abstract as the last page of the specification:

Abstract

Methods and apparatus relating to routing and caching systems for reducing traffic and the bandwidth used by decentralized peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing networks is described. The peer-to-peer network operates over an underlying network including first and second network portions. The method includes routing a peer-to-peer message in one of said network portions with an intended destination in the other of said network portions to a gateway between peer-to-peer modes residing on said first and second network portions. The method further includes controlling transport of said message at said gateway to limit propagation of said message into said other of said network portions.